

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Acting Chair Karin Olsen Billings called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Karin Olsen Billings, Jim Larson, Julia Bryant</p> <p><u>Commission Members on phone:</u> Sandra Jones, Amy Unsworth, Heather Margolis, Karen Moses, Jackie Girard.</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> Vice Chair Rebecca Harbage, Eric Strauss, Chair Kevin Myhre, Danette Rector</p> <p><u>Commission Members Absent:</u> Charles Wetherington</p> <p><u>Staff and Guests Present:</u> OCS - Dan Ritter, Sarah Sadowski, Sheree Isola, Alison O'Neil, Lisa Dorrington</p> <p>Energy Corps – Lonni Starcevich (phone), Montana State Parks</p> <p>AmeriCorps – Joe Naiman-Sessions</p>	
b. Opening Activity	Jim Larson led the group in a brief sharing of what each person does on Christmas morning.	
c. Approval of Oct. 12, 2017 Minutes	Commissioner Larson moved to approve the minutes, Julia Bryant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.	Oct. 11, 2018 Minutes approved
d. Announcements	No announcements	
e. Commissioner Reports	<p>Sandra Jones: Roundup community partners very engaged and working on an urban renewal plan. She noted that these partners were instrumental in that process and deserved praise for their work. Roundup's BackPack program also recently held a successful fundraiser.</p> <p>Karin Olsen Billings: Was recently involved with a fundraiser for homeless female veterans. Also, around Thanksgiving, Karin was involved with a group that adopted families for Christmas, providing</p>	

	<p>them dinner and presents for the holiday.</p> <p>Jim Larson: The Backpack program had a Thanksgiving event in a parking lot where they gave away holiday meals to anyone who showed up.</p> <p>Karen Moses: Young family Head Start has continued work and is expanding in the Billings school district with 2 preschool rooms now available and advancing the early childhood efforts.</p>	
II.2019-2021 State Service Plan	<p>Dan Ritter reported that the 2019-2021 State Service Plan is now available in both digital and hard form. He noted that a lot of hard work went into the Service Plan and that it looks very nice and professional. He thanked the staff and the State Service Plan work group for their efforts. The plan has been approved by Governor Bullock. He also noted that there were several goals in the plan relating to the Commission and invited Commissioners to take a look at those as well as the other goals.</p>	<p>Commissioners not in attendance will each be mailed a hard copy of the 2019-2021 State Service Plan.</p>
III.CNCS State Office Update	<p>Jackie Girard said that they were recruiting 40 new VISTA members to start January 2019. VISTA is now doing virtual orientations rather than in-person however Jackie continues to seek ways to engage the Governor in VISTA orientations.</p> <p>CNCS is moving forward with their Transformation and Sustainability plan, including regionalization. The CNCS State Offices will be closing in September of 2019 and will be replaced with regional offices. Montana's CNCS support will be from a regional office in Denver. Girard is working to make sure that the AmeriCorps programs are in good shape for this transition. She noted that it would be a change, with far less personal interactions for programs, especially Senior Corps and VISTA. For resources and more information, Commissioners should contact CNCS State Director, Jackie Girard at 406-449-5404.</p>	
IV. Governor's Office of Community Service Updates		

<p>a. ServeMontana</p>	<p><u>Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council</u> http://serve.mt.gov/ServeMT/fight-childhood-hunger 20 students from 18 communities across Montana convened November 30 in the Governor’s Reception Room where they learned about food insecurity in Montana; heard from a person with personal experience with food insecurity, had lunch with the First Lady, experienced a poverty simulation courtesy of Montana No Kid Hungry, discussed ways to end childhood hunger and received training in project management, outreach, and volunteer recruitment. From Baker to Trout Creek and Whitefish, council members began planning projects for Fight Childhood Hunger Week, next April 8-14, 2019. We’re thankful for financial backing from First Interstate Bank.</p> <p><u>Youth ServeMontana Scholarship</u> Scholarship applications are now open, until Jan 31, 2019. Offering up to 100 \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors attending MTCC member institutions who have completed at least 100 hours of community volunteer service over the past year. The Scholarship application and participating schools are listed at http://serve.mt.gov/ServeMT/youth-serve-montana-scholarships Additional outreach includes Facebook via paid ad, press release and emails to school counselors. Three applications so far! Grateful for support from partners, Montana Campus Compact and Reach Higher Montana.</p> <p><u>ServeMontana Awards</u> Applications open soon, through March 31, 2019. Commissioners encouraged to nominate people and groups who they think should be honored for their service and volunteerism. Director Ritter called for Commissioners to serve to select the ServeMontana Awardees.</p>	<p>Workgroup members: Karin Olsen Billings, Julia Bryant, Jackie Girard, and Jim Larson. Will recruit others.</p>
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b. Financial	Sheree Isola noted that they are closing the 2016 Commissioner Support Grant and asked Commissioners to either waive their honorarium so that the honorarium could be used as match or could be provided to each eligible Commissioner.	
c. AmeriCorps	<p>Sarah Sadowski reported that OCS currently has eight AmeriCorps State programs offering 530 service positions as of September 1. She also thanked the Competitive Grant Review work group for their work reviewing and scoring grants.</p> <p>Jan 21, 2019 is MLK Day, a National Day of Service, Commissioners are invited to participate in the statewide Read for Peace activity, learn more and sign up at, http://www.mtcompact.org/mlkreadforpeace/</p> <p>2019 Symposium planning is underway. The theme, "Service: The Heart of Montana" has been decided as well as a logo. Sarah asked Commissioners to consider presenting at the Symposium and also encouraged them to share this information with anyone they know who might be interested in presenting. OCS is also looking for sponsors for the Symposium, although there will be no Sponsorship Work Group. At least 300 AmeriCorps members are expected for the Symposium, as well as National Direct members. The Symposium will again kick off with the First Lady joining us to launch the Doorsteps to Kids Packs city-wide food drive on the Wednesday before the main Symposium.</p>	
V. New Business		
a. Competitive Grant Review Workgroup Recommendation	Commissioner Margolis thanked the members of the Competitive Grant reviewers and the applicants. She noted that Competitive Review grants are a great way to learn what we are doing in community service and that the programs were excellent and required little input from reviewers. They are scored by a committee and sent onto CNCS for final funding determination. Montana has requested money for 4 continuation grants and 1	Competitive Grant Proposal Approved

	renewal grant, totaling \$3,712,280. Commissioner Margolis moved to approve the Competitive Grant Proposal and was seconded by Commissioner Larson. The motion passed unanimously.	
VI. ASC States for Service	<p>Commissioner Margolis reported that States for Service Coalition is a public policy outreach effort of America's Service Commissions that works to increase service in several ways, including ending taxation of the education awards. They have been successful in two states so far, Michigan and Iowa. States For Service is encouraging universities and colleges to match to the education award for students. Montana is the state that has the most success with this. They also encourage the public highlighting of the impact of national service, which helps with funding in Congress.</p> <p>https://www.statecommissions.org/states-for-service-coalition</p> <p>Heather asked Commissioners to think of ways to increase awareness and support for National Service in Montana, such as visiting an AmeriCorps service site and then writing a letter to the editor highlighting that experience. Sarah Sadowski added that Martin Luther King Day Read for Peace and the National Service Day of Recognition in April are also good ways to do engage. National Service Recognition Day is the 1st Tuesday of April and is a great opportunity to engage a local official.</p> <p>https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/Recognitionday</p>	
VII. Public Comment	Joe Naiman-Sessions, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps and on behalf of all the programs who applied through the competitive grant process, thanked the grant review work group for the time commitment and effort they put into the review process as well as the Office of Community Service and everyone else involved. Joe invited Commissioners to participate in MLK Day of Service and to extended an open invitation to visit programs in action.	
VIII. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2019 at Carroll College.	

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